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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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Amend the Abstract as follows

A system stores digital media records and includes a search engine searching the stored digital media records. It receives search requests from users, logs the search requests, expands the search requests, applies a statistical clustering algorithm, thereby grouping similar search requests together, identifies, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level term in the hierarchy that subsumes all of the queries in a grouping of search requests, and communicates the identified term to a user. The software according to the invention incorporates a glossary management tool that makes it easy for each client to customize terminology to the needs of a particular business. With this tool, termed a glossary manager, a company can customize a number of feature names in the system to provide a more familiar context for their users. A system administrator can also customize the manner in which "thumbnail" or "preview" images are presented. The system performs clustering on search queries, and searches media records multi-modally, using two or more approaches such as image searching and text searching. An administrator can tune search parameters. Two or more streams of metadata may be aligned and correlated with a media file, facilitating later searching. The system evaluates itself. It folds popularity information into rankings of search results.